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E.O. 12958, as amended

June 21, 2006

*Iran*

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 P-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-08 RSR-01 /092 W  
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R 271318Z DEC 72  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0711  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
EUCOM

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SUBJECT: IRANIAN REACTIONS TO APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD HELMS  
AS AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO IRAN

SUMMARY: IN REPORTING APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE  
HELMS AS NEW AMERICAN ENVOY TO TEHRAN, LOCAL NEWSPAPERS  
NOTE BUT DO NOT HIGHLIGHT HELMS' POSITION AS FORMER C.I.A.  
DIRECTOR. MEDIA COVERAGE AND PRIVATE COMMENT BY IRANIAN OFFICIALS  
TEND TO INTERPRET APPOINTMENT AS INDICATION OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE  
UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO IRAN. ALL PRESS ACCOUNTS REPORT  
THAT AMBASSADOR FARLAND WILL BE ASSUMING ANOTHER IMPORTANT  
POST. END SUMMARY

1. ALL MAJOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AND PERSIAN-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS  
FOR DECEMBER 23 FRONTPAGED APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD HELMS AS THE  
NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO IRAN. AMBASSADOR HELMS' POSITION  
AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WAS MENTIONED  
BY ALL PAPERS BUT THIS FACTOR IS NOT HIGHLIGHTED. NOTING  
AMBASSADOR HELMS' CLOSENESS TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND HIS PROMINENCE  
IN AMERICAN LIFE AS IMPORTANT PUBLIC SERVANT, MOST ARTICLES  
SEE HIS APPOINTMENT AS INDICATING HEIGHTENED IMPORTANCE WASHINGTON  
ATTACHES TO ITS RELATIONS WITH IRAN.

2. FOREGOING THEME HAS BEEN MENTIONED TO ME BY FOREIGN MINISTER  
KHALATBARI AND COURT MINISTER ALAMNON SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS.

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ALAM SAW APPROACHING END OF THE VIET NAM CONFLICT AS FREEING  
THE UNITED STATES FOR MAJOR EFFORT TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL SOLUTION  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST. COURT MINISTER VIEWED APPOINTMENT OF DISTINGUISHED  
AND ABLE AMBASSADOR HELMS AS SIGNALING THAT NEW AMERICAN PEACE  
EFFORT IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITH IRAN AS  
POSSIBLE BASE FOR SUCH EFFORT. ?

3. AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, CLANDESTINE IRAN COURIER, PERSIAN  
LANGUAGE RADIO FOR DECEMBER  
23, FORMERLY BROADCASTING FROM EAST  
GERMANY BUT NOW APPARENTLY MOVED TO BULGARIA, SAW AMBASSADOR  
HALMS' APPOINTMENT IN SINISTER LIGHT HERALDING RENEWED ROLE BY  
AMERICAN EMBASSY TEHRAN AS CENTER OF U.S. ESPIONAGE IN IRAN.  
THERE HAS BEEN NO LOCAL PLAY OF SUCH COMMENTS AND WE UNDERSTAND  
WORD HAS GONE OUT TO LOCAL PRESS NOT REPEAT NOT ALLUDE TO  
AMBRASSADOR HELMS' PAST CONNECTIONS WITH C.I.A.

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